

no description of this last has been yet published, it is still possible I may be mistaken.

2. PLATESSA——?

FORM.—Very similar to the last species, from which it scarcely seems to differ, except in having the teeth smaller, and somewhat more numerous and closer together; also in the maxillary, which is more dilated at its posterior extremity, and more obliquely truncated. The scales are extremely similar.

Length 6 inches 6 lines.

COLOUR.—Not noticed.

Habitat, King George's Sound, New Holland.

HIPPOGLOSSUS KINGII. Jen.

PLATE XXVI.

H. fuscus: corpore ovato, lato: oculis sinistris, haud valde approximatis: dentibus acutis, fortioribus: lineâ laterali anticè arcuatâ: pinnâ dorsali supra oculos initium capienti, dimidio anteriore humillimo, posteriore modicè elevato: ventralibus distinctis, haud anali continuis: caudali subquadrata, radiis mediis cæteris paululum longioribus.

D. 18 et 48; A. 51; C. 14; P. 11; V. 6.

FORM.—Breadth, not including the dorsal and anal fins, half the length of the oval of the body. Eyes on the left side, apparently distant from each other about two diameters; the upper one a little behind the lower. Teeth sharp and strong, forming a very regular series. The lateral line takes a sweep over the pectoral fin. The dorsal commences above the upper eye; the first half, or until it gets above the extremity of the reclined pectoral, is very little elevated, and much lower than the rest of the fin, with the membrane apparently notched between the rays; the remainder of the fin attains a moderate elevation, and there is an abrupt transition from the former to the latter portion. The anal answers to the elevated portion of the dorsal: both these fins fall short of the caudal by a small space. Pectorals short, and of a somewhat triangular form. Ventrals very distinct, free, placed right and left, with the rays a little projecting beyond the membrane; which last character appears also in the dorsal and anal. Tail somewhat square, but the middle rays slightly projecting beyond the lateral ones in the form of an obtuse lobe.

COLOUR.—Represented in the drawing of a uniform light brown.

Habitat, Valparaiso.

This is the species of which, as before stated, no specimen was brought home, but only a coloured drawing made by Mr. Phillip King, an officer of the Beagle, for Capt. FitzRoy. The drawing appears to have been done with accuracy, and from it the above description has been taken. The fin-ray formula, however, was computed from the recent fish, the above numbers being marked upon the drawing.

The teeth appear to indicate this species as belonging to *Hippoglossus* rather

than to *Rhombus*, though possibly it may be found hereafter to serve as the type of a distinct subgenus in this family. The form of the dorsal fin, if correctly delineated, is remarkable. The size of the fish is not stated.

RHOMBUS——?

FORM.—Oval, approaching to rhomboidal. Breadth a little exceeding half the length. Eyes on the right side, near together, equally in advance, or the lower one perhaps rather more forward than the upper; between them a double osseous ridge. On the under side of the head, and nearly answering in position to the upper eye, is a deepish cavity, from whence proceeds a tentaculiform appendage four or five lines in length. Teeth very small, sharp, in scarcely more than two rows, and apparently confined to the under side. Lateral line sweeping over the pectoral. Dorsal commencing above the upper lip, and reaching nearly to the caudal, but leaving a minute space. Both sides of the body are smooth, but the upper one appears to have lost its scales. Pectoral on the eye side about three-fourths the length of the head.

Length 5 inches.

COLOUR.—“Above pale purplish brown, with rounded darker markings.”—D.

Habitat, Bahia Blanca, Coast of Patagonia.

ACHIRUS LINEATUS. D'Orbig.

Achirus lineatus, D'Orb. Voy. dans L'Amer. Mérid. Atl. Ichth. Pl. 16. fig. 2.

FORM.—Body oval, but with the dorsal and anal fins included, approaching orbicular; the greatest breadth rather more than half the length. Eyes on the right side, moderately near together, the upper one a very little in advance. Lower jaw longest, projecting beyond the snout. Teeth forming a velutine band, very minute, and scarcely sensible except to the touch, confined to the side opposed to the eyes. Preopercle distinct from the opercle. A few short thread-like cirri on the under side of the head; two at the extremity of the snout being rather longer and more conspicuous than the others. Lateral line nearly straight throughout its course, somewhat higher at its commencement than afterwards, but taking no sweep. Both sides of the body rough, with ciliated scales, but the upper one most so. The dorsal commences above the upper lip, and reaches, as also the anal, almost quite to the caudal: this last rounded. Pectorals entirely wanting.

Length 9 inches.

COLOUR.—Not noticed.

Habitat, Rio Plata.

This species was obtained by Mr. Darwin in the market at Buenos Ayres, where it is said to be eaten. It so exactly accords in form with the figure of the *A. lineatus* in D'Orbigny's Voyage, that I have little hesitation in considering it the same, though, from the specimen being dried, there are no vestiges left of the transverse lines. Whether it be the *A. lineatus* of any other author I am uncer-